THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Suggestions mainly relate to enlarging the scope of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective for protecting the interest of consumers;

(b) and (c) The Suggestions have already been examined by a Working Group on the Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which was constituted under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council. The Working Group has since submitted its report.

Representation of West Godavari Tobacco Farmers on Tobacco Board

760. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a demand for representation for West Godavari tobacco farmers on the recently constituted Tobacco Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tobacco farmers from West Godavari and other areas have never got representation on the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether Government propose to consider forming an exclusive tobacco growers advisory body; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the grievance of non-representation of tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Tobacco Board Act provides for appoint of upto 6 members on the Board to represent tobacco growers. Such tobacco growers' representatives have been appointed on the Board.

Supply of Commodities under Subsidised Rates

761. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some blocks in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra under the Prime Minister's Scheme in backward/tribal areas for providing commodities at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks identified and number of items provided at subsidised rates so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the supply of levy sugar and other items to these States under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has identified 97,122 and 114 Blocks in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra respectively to be covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in consultation with the State Government. Central Government allocates rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the CIP for normal PDS areas, to States/UTs for distribution in the RPDS areas.

(c) Levy sugar allocations are generally made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. Monthly allocation of other PDS items like rice, wheat and imported edible oil to State/UTs are made after taking into account the availability in the Central Pool, demands received from States/UTs, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains, reasonable requests for additional allocations of foodgrains have been allowed. Due to constraints of levy sugar

production in the past, additional allocation of sugar was not possible to any State/UT. An adhoc increase of 5 per cent in the levy sugar allocation to States/UTs was made from August, 1991 till March, 1994. Central Government has decided to restore this adhoc increase with effect from September, 1995. Allocations of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for the PDS have a historical basis. Increase in the annual allocations of SKO for the PDS to the State/UTs are being decided weith a view to bring all the States at par with the National average per capita allocation of SKO.

आर्थिक मामलों संबंधी मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति द्वारा चीनी के मूल्यों को कम करने का निर्णय

762. **श्री सोमपाल:** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आर्थिक मामलों संबंधी मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से बेचे जाने वाली चीनी के मूल्यों को कम करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) उक्त योजना के अधीन कितनी चीनी उपलब्ध करायी जाएगी और इसके तुलनात्मक मूल्य क्या होंगे तथा यह चीनी किन-किन क्षेत्रों में उपलब्ध कराने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(घ) इस कारण राजकोष पर कितना अतिरिक्त भार पड़ेगा?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

Objections by Centres of EU Markets on Indian Imports

763. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain centres of European Community market have objected to the import of tea, textiles, carpets and other commodities because of pesticides and other contents etc;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and steps being taken to safeguard Indian export interests in the free trade global regime; and

(c) whether Government have devised any new hall-mark for the export of carpets and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There have been some moves in the European Union, especially in Germany, to this effect.

(b) The German Government had in 1994 enacted legislation banning the manufacture and import of products using certain dyes and chemicals. The implementation of the ban has been deferred upto the end of march, 1996. Steps have also been taken to restrict the presence of pesticide residues in tea within permissible limits.

(c) The Government has sponsored a move to introduce a label called 'Kaleen' as a hallmark of certification for carpets to be exported from India.

चीनी मिलों के लिए प्रस्ताव

764. **प्रो० राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:** क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के फर्रूखाबाद जिले में चीनी मिल की स्थापना हेतु स्वीकृति दी जा चुकी है;